

THE MUIR VIEW



NEWS OF THE SIERRA CLUB IN WISCONSIN

wisconsin.sierraclub.org



JOHN MUIR CHAPTER'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY REMEMBERING 50 YEARS OF OUTINGS

50 GREAT OUTINGS!

Outings have always been an integral part of the John Muir Chapter. Indeed, Outings were in many ways directly linked to the formation of the Chapter. In this Anniversary year, we want to highlight 50 Outings that capture not only the spirit of the Sierra Club, but also the spirit of Wisconsin.

Outings have been offered both to explore and enjoy Wisconsin and to raise awareness about the need to protect unique areas of Wisconsin. Spending time in special areas helped us make a stronger case for protecting them than words alone. Establishing the Ice Age Trail, protecting Wisconsin's wild and scenic St. Croix river and creating John Muir Park inspired members to take action.

What really distinguishes the Sierra Club Outings Program is that these trips are open to all, members and non-members alike. It has been the door through which many have paddled, walked, climbed, and biked and ended up join-

ing the Sierra Club. We invite you to join us for an outing!

A sampling of exceptional outings from throughout Wisconsin, as well as some future outings, are listed below. The variety reflects the unique beauty of Wisconsin's natural resources and the diversity of conservation and recreational interests. Although some of the sites have changed over time, you can still follow in the footsteps of past Sierrans with visits to the locales recapped below.

- 1 Gibraltar Rock bicycling (1967), Columbia Co. Gibraltar Rock State Natural Area near Lodi offers some of the most spectacular views of the Wisconsin River Valley. Gibraltar Rock stands 1,234 feet above sea level with 200 foot sheer cliffs. Unfortunately, rock climbing is no longer allowed in this area.
- 2 Bois Brule River paddling (1967), Douglas Co. The Bois Brule River is a 43.9 mile river

in Douglas County that rises near Upper St. Croix Lake, flows through the Brule River State Forest and drains into Lake Superior. This whitewater trip featured homemade kayaks (before they were commercially available, kids!).

- 3 Peshtigo River canoeing (1967), Marinette Co. The Peshtigo River winds 136-miles from Forest Co. into Green Bay. This trip featured at least 5 canoes and a camping trip.
- 4 Devil's Lake State Park hiking (1964), Sauk Co. Devil's Lake is Wisconsin's

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ATTEND THE 2013 AUTUMN ASSEMBLY!

By Shahla Werner, PhD, Director, John Muir Chapter

The Autumn Assembly, featuring keynote speaker Dr. Tom Heberlein, will take place October 11-13, 2013 at Green Lake Conference Center in Green Lake, Wisconsin. In celebration of the John Muir Chapter's 50th Anniversary in Wisconsin, this year's event will feature historical photos and displays to commemorate our accomplishments, as well as a forum where we'll discuss Sierra Club's current work and plans for the future. The Autumn Assembly is a public, family-friendly event featuring indoor and outdoor environmental activities for all ages.

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FROM THE CHAIR

by Liz Wessel, Chair
John Muir Chapter

OUR WILD WISCONSIN

“Keep close to Nature’s heart... and break clear away, once in awhile, and climb a mountain or spend a week in the woods. Wash your spirit clean.” – John Muir

Everyone has a special place in nature that they treasure. Perhaps it’s the nearby pond with tad poles and dragonflies each spring. Or the local park with a bit of wild prairie. Or the river or lake where you learned how to paddle or to fish.

Special places connect us to the land and inspire us to further outdoor adventures. And for many, we become advocates and stewards for the wild places that we hold close to the heart.

From the John Muir Chapter’s history, we know that early Sierrans explored the wonderful lakes and rivers, glacial terrain and forests of Wisconsin. They decided not only to form a Chapter, but also to become immediately involved in conservation efforts. Over the past five decades, countless Wisconsinites have

participated in Sierra Club outings and many have gone on to become club members.

There have been many accomplishments since the founding of the Chapter (many of which were listed in the January newsletter and on our web site), but let me highlight a few:

- Helped designate the 150-mile long St Croix and the Namekagon Rivers system as one of the nation’s first eight rivers protected by the 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.
- Helped secure Wild and Scenic River status for the Pike, Peshtigo, Popple, Brunsweller and Totogatic Rivers.
- Got Congress and the Wisconsin State Legislature to purchase glacial land formations and create the 1,000 mile Ice Age National Scenic Hiking Trail Corridor.
- Worked for the passage of the Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act in 1972, which requires environmental assessments in natural resource-related decision making.

In the 1980s, conservation activists, including Sierra Club member and then State Legislator Spencer Black, tapped this special connection between people and Wisconsin to develop broad support for the creation of the Knowles - Nelson Stewardship Fund, passed in 1989 and reauthorized in 2000.

Named after former Governors Warren Knowles, a Republican, and Gaylord Nelson, a Democrat, both strong conservation leaders, the Fund provided the resources to set

aside areas of scenic beauty and ecological importance for the people of Wisconsin. This acclaimed public-private partnership has secured critical wildlife habitat and has ensured that visitors and residents alike will have world class outdoor recreation experiences.

The creation of the Stewardship Fund continued a conservation legacy that seemed to spring from Wisconsin’s soil and water. And it helped to build a legacy – our wild Wisconsin that we can experience today but also share with our children and grandchildren tomorrow. But what had been a seemingly unflappable commitment amongst Wisconsinites to the wonderful lakes and rivers, glacial terrain and forests might not run as deep as we thought. Let us hope that Aldo Leopold’s words do not ring true:

Having to squeeze the last drop of utility out of the land has the same desperate finality as having to chop up the furniture to keep warm.- 1949, from A Sand County Almanac

The eroded commitment to the environment has manifested itself in a variety of ways, including a budget that slashes Stewardship

GET THE FULL STORY

In the April issue of the Muir View, the final paragraphs of the Speak out for Safe Water with Kewaunee Cares article was inadvertently cut off. The complete article can be accessed on the website at: <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Involve/newsletter.asp>

THE MUIR VIEW

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Muir View Committee

Editor: Emily Jones
Layout: Laura Anderton
Jacinda Tessmann, Shahla Werner, Emily Jones

Contributor Guidelines

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Emily Jones
222 S. Hamilton St., Ste. 11
Madison, WI 53703-3201
muir.view.intern@gmail.com

Please include the author’s first and last names, and day and evening phone numbers at the top. Acceptance of submission contingent upon availability of space and must meet Sierra Club guidelines.

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Laura Anderton: laura_anderton@tds.net

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DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2013 ISSUE IS AUGUST 15

funding, proposes selling off public lands and parks and weakens public input on issues like high capacity wells.

In a time when the winds of change are blowing – political uncertainty in the commitment to our wild areas of Wisconsin and increasing impacts of climate change - there is a greater need than ever before for outdoor experiences in and near urban centers as well as the best that wilderness can offer. The time has come for the John Muir Chapter to reenergize and expand our Outings programs.

What does this mean? This means training more Outings leaders and making sure that people can find and participate in Outings across the state. The options need to offer variety and cover a range of outdoor activities and experiences. And we need to create a bright line connecting these experiences to our conservation priorities.

Outings serve an important educational role. Firsthand experience is the best way for citi-

zens and decision makers to realize what makes these places worthy of special consideration and protection. Clearly the Sierra Club motto – “Explore, Enjoy and Protect” sprang from this integrated approach to Outings and conservation work.

The richest values of wilderness lie not in the days of Daniel Boone, nor even in the present, but rather in the future. ~ Aldo Leopold

The opportunity is now. The year 2014 will mark the 50th Anniversary of the Federal Wilderness Act (<http://www.wilderness50th.org/index.php>). Wisconsin has seven designated wilderness areas. These pieces of the landscape puzzle embody the Wilderness Act principles. They retain their primeval character and influence without permanent improvements or human habitation. In these areas, people are welcome to visit but

do not remain.

Wisconsin's designated wilderness areas (www.wilderness.net):

- Blackjack Springs Wilderness
- Gaylord Nelson Wilderness
- Headwaters Wilderness
- Porcupine Lake Wilderness
- Rainbow Lake Wilderness
- Whisker Lake Wilderness
- Wisconsin Islands Wilderness

Indeed, the anniversary of the Wilderness Act offers an opportunity to not only celebrate and cherish our seven designated wilderness areas but to celebrate all of our special places in Wisconsin. This love of special places connects and inspires us at a time when we need inspiration and we need more advocates and stewards for wild places.

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PARTNERSHIP WILL OFFER EASY, AFFORDABLE SOLAR TO SIERRA CLUB MEMBERS & SUPPORTERS

Recently we learned that concentrations of carbon dioxide, the primary greenhouse gas linked to climate change, had reached 400 parts per million, a level not seen in millions of years. As efforts to fight climate change accelerate, the Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter is helping members and supporters drop dirty fossil fuels. A new program, to be implemented this summer, is aimed at catalyzing widespread deployment of clean energy throughout Wisconsin: the Solar Homes Campaign.

Through an innovative partnership with a leading Wisconsin solar service provider (to be announced soon), the chapter will be able to offer its members and supporters an affordable way to get solar on their rooftops. For every home that goes solar through this program, the company will provide a donation to the John Muir Chapter to support their conservation programs, as well as a discount to homeowners referred through the program.

The time to encourage homeowners to go solar couldn't be better, given the ever increasing efficiency of modern solar panels, coupled with dramatic price drops that have made solar much more affordable to the average homeowner. There were 3,313 megawatts (MW) of photovoltaic (PV) capacity installed

in 2012, and installations grew by 76% over 2011. Installed prices for solar photovoltaic (PV) systems fell 27% in 2012 alone. Nearly 83,000 homes installed solar PV, and 11 states installed over 50 MW of solar. 2013 is predicted to continue the upward trend with 4,300 MW of additional solar expected to go online. Numbers like this suggest that Wisconsin's solar industry is ripe for growth, and the Sierra Club wants to encourage our members and supporters to help make that happen.

“In order to end our dependence on dirty energy, we need as many Americans as possible to switch to clean energy like rooftop solar. This is a high priority for the Sierra Club. We are urging all of our members and supporters in Wisconsin to find out if solar is right for them. Every home that goes solar gets us one step closer to our goal of a clean energy economy,” said Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune about the program.

It's a win-win-win. Home owners save on their electricity costs by going solar. The John Muir Chapter will raise money for our important campaigns. And more solar will replace coal as Sierra Club members cut their carbon footprints and collectively help to scale up this key clean energy solution. Investing in clean en-

ergy is one of the most powerful things we can do as individuals to fight climate change. Help us vastly expand the amount of clean energy in Wisconsin through our solar homes partnership!



WHAT YOU CAN DO: Visit www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org for complete program details (we expect to launch this program by early July), or email us at shahla.werner@sierraclub.org. Complete the form requesting a free solar quote and our solar partner will contact you to discuss whether solar is right for you. Thanks in advance for doing all you can to take charge of your energy use this year! ☺

50 OUTINGS

Continued from Page 1

- largest, most visited state park, founded in 1911. The park offers magnificent views from 500-foot quartzite bluffs overlooking a 360-acre lake. A mix of kids and adults enjoyed fall leaves during this late season hike.
- 5** Elroy – Sparta trail hiking (1965), Monroe Co. The 32.5 mile Elroy-Sparta state trail stretches through the communities of Norwalk, Wilton and Kendall. The right of way for this “rails to trails” trail was obtained by the state in 1965. The outing took place after the tracks were removed but before the paving took place that makes this trail a popular biking route today.
- 6** Flambeau River canoe/camping (1964), Price Co. The North and South forks of the Flambeau River provide great canoeing in the northwoods. This trip featured stillwater and whitewater canoeing under blue, sunny skies as well as primitive shoreland camping.
- 7** Honey Creek-Pine Hollow State Natural Area hike (1966), Sauk Co. A multigenerational group enjoyed fall colors hiking in the Honey Creek – Pine Hollow State Natural Area. The area features a Class II trout stream that flows through a narrow, wooded gorge with cliffs and rock outcroppings of sandstone and quartzite cut into the Baraboo Hills.
- 8** Kickapoo River canoe camping (1964), Vernon Co. The Kickapoo River meanders through the Kickapoo Valley and into the Wisconsin River near Wauzeka. Kickapoo is an Algonquian word meaning “one who goes here, then there,” likely referring to the winding nature of the river. The river flows through several wildlife refuges and along the edge of Wildcat Mountain State Park.
- 9** Lake Superior Squaw Bay and Sand Island backpacking trip (1967), Bayfield Co. Some of the most breathtaking sea caves in the Great Lakes are located on Swallow Point on Sand Island and near Cornucopia in the Mawikwe Bay Sea Caves (formerly known as Squaw Bay). This trip featured fall hiking and backpacking along the beautiful Lake Superior shoreline.
- 10** Mekan River canoeing (1962), Marquette Co. The Mekan River provides great paddling, fishing and wildlife viewing on its way to the 5,000 acre Puckaway Lake. Canoeists on this outing took in a beautiful orange evening sunset at the end of the day
- 11** Cliffside Park, monarch tagging 2012, Racine Co. Located along the Lake Michigan shore, the park provides respite for monarchs setting out for Mexico on one of the great migrations of the natural world. During this outing, participants learned about the monarch tagging program developed by the University of Kansas to study the monarch’s migration routes and habitat needs. Participants learned how to tag and record data for monarchs.
- 12** Paddling the Crawfish River 2011 - Aztalan State Park to Jefferson, Jefferson Co. A joint venture between the John Muir Chapter’s Water Sentinels and the River Touring Section. The trip featured a discussion on mound-building Neolithic indigenous residents with archeologist Bob Birmingham at Aztalan. The paddle down the Crawfish River included viewing wildlife and a shore lunch with a presentation on the work of the Water Sentinels and water quality threats along the Crawfish River.
- 13** Pike and Peshtigo River canoeing / camping (1962), Marinette Co. The Pike, now a designated wild river that joins the Menominee River, and the Peshtigo Rivers both flow into Lake Michigan. A trip on the Pike and Peshtigo Rivers features opportunities to navigate through a series of rapids through pristine habitats.
- 14** Petenwell Rock (1966), Juneau Co. Petenwell Rock features a ridge of sandstone towers and buttresses located a few miles East of Necedah. Not an outing for those who fear heights, this incredible trip featured advanced rock climbing exploring the Petenwell’s Hell Wall and Y-Crack.
- 15** Pine Hollow Snowshoe hike (1967), Sauk Co. Participants on this trip to Pine Hollow State Natural Area enjoyed fresh, glittering snow and icicles hanging from beautiful rock formations during this wintry trip.
- 16** Pine River canoe trip, Florence Co. The Pine River is an 80 mile long tributary of the Menominee River that includes LaSalle Falls that borders on the Chequamegon Nicolet National Forest on the north and connects with the Pople River. The Chapter helped secure legislative status for the Pine and Pople as a State Wild Rivers in 1965. Meandering rapids on this trip combined with remote access made this outing memorable and challenging.
- 17** Devil’s Lake rock-climbing trip, Sauk Co. Rock climbing on the cliff faces at Devil’s Lake has challenged many Club members. While the date for and early rope-enhanced rock climbing outing escapes memory, snow in the background of a picture suggests that it occurred during winter. This outing also featured a simulated rock climbing rescue demonstration.
- 18** St. Croix/Namekagon Rivers paddling (1966), Co. The St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers offer 255 miles of clean water gliding or rushing past a lush green landscape, with glimpses of human presence. Judging from the mosquito head nets in the pictures, the insects were biting during this trip, which included at least 7 canoes traversing the vast Wild and Scenic St. Croix and the Namekagon River.
- 19** Picnic Point bonfire, Dane Co. An annual event offered by the Four Lakes Group. Hike a mile in the moonlight to a fire pit located on Lake Mendota’s Picnic Point. Once there, participants listen to the owls and other night sounds as they enjoy campfire refreshments (perhaps like John Muir once did when he attended UW-Madison).
- 20** Cherokee Marsh Hayride, Dane Co. Madison Parks provided a hayride and s’mores at Cherokee Marsh for a crisp, fall afternoon outing. Cherokee Marsh, designated as a Wetland Gem by Wisconsin Wetlands Association, is Dane County’s largest wetland.
- 21** Wisconsin Point Superior, Douglas Co. Together, Wisconsin Point and Minnesota Point create the largest freshwater sand bar in the world. Hiking the Wisconsin Point Trail rewards participants with migratory and resident bird species and amazing sunrises in the summer. Look for the historical marker for a sacred Chippewa burial ground. Canoe or kayak Allouez Bay and the St. Louis River estuary, site of a large chemical spill in 1992.
- 22** Copper Falls State Park, Ashland Co. A

- destination outing with camping in the park and access to a variety of hikes including the North Country National Scenic Trail. The falls are the stars of the park providing spectacular scenery and opportunities for fishing and swimming along the river.
- 23** Pattison State Park, Douglas Co. – Trips to Pattison State Park open the door for a variety of recreational opportunities in addition to camping. Hike to the state's tallest waterfall, picnic, swim, fish and canoe at Interfalls Lake above the falls.
- 24** Upper St Croix Lake & Lucius Woods State Park, Douglas Co. Upper St Croix Lake sits at the headwaters for two rivers. The St. Croix River flows south to the Mississippi River and the Bois Brule flows north to Lake Superior. Canoe and fish this headwater lake or the rivers.
- 25** Whisker Lake Wilderness area, Florence Co. One of Wisconsin's seven designated wilderness areas, the Whisker Lake wilderness was designated in 1978. Located in along the Upper Michigan/Wisconsin border with the Brule River as part of its boundary, the area includes about 7500 acres, hiking trails, big timber and secluded lakes.
- 26** Ice Age National Scenic Trail, trail building at Grandfather Falls (1985 or 1986), Lincoln Co. Sponsored by the Midwest Region Outings Committee, the crew helped to construct a new section of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail along the Wisconsin River at Grandfather Falls. About a dozen Sierrans from around the country joined Fox Valley Group members and members of the Lincoln County Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Council in building the new trail. The Sierrans from outside Wisconsin included a fellow from Los Angeles who announced that this was his 265th Sierra Club outing and an 80 year old Hungarian woman who swung a pick mattock as energetically as the 20 year olds.
- 27** Ice Age Trail Maintenance, Waupaca Co. Fox Valley Group sponsored work day to do minor trail maintenance on the Ice Age Trail. Pruning and other types of maintenance work, as well as good conversation over lunch and an ice cream break in the afternoon.
- 28** Pine River Paddles (1960s), Forest and Florence Cos. Early JMC trips on the Pine River headwaters uncovered several bridges, built without permits, which required portaging on this Wild River. Responding to Chapter pressure, DNR finally forced removal of these bridges including one steel truss bridge. The Chapter Wild Rivers Committee was organized in this early period.
- 29** Peshtigo River paddles & State Wild Rivers Program, Marinette Co. In the push to get Wisconsin rivers protected under conservation legislation, the Chapter organized a canoe/raft outing inviting then US Senator Gaylord Nelson from Wisconsin. The participants experienced the wildness of the Upper Peshtigo River. Outings such as this one led to the successful passage of state Wild Rivers and federal National Wild and Scenic River legislation.
- 30** Backpacking in the Porcupine Mountains (1965), Gogebic & Ontonagon Cos. (MI) Memories are created on visits to the "Por-kies". The mountains encompass one of the few large wilderness areas in the Midwest with towering virgin timber, secluded lakes, and miles of wild rivers and streams.
- 31** Canoe races on the Wolf River (1965), Oneida & Langlade Cos. The Wolf River is now a designated Wild and Scenic River. Some early paddling trips to the Wolf River included canoe races amongst the participants.
- 32** Trail building and maintenance in the Baraboo Hills (1965), Sauk Co. The unique ecosystems of the Baraboo Hills provide the setting for a variety of trails and are now home to State parks and Natural Areas. Chapter members helped to build and maintain the trail infrastructure.
- 33** Family canoe camping on the Lower Wisconsin River, Richland, Iowa, Crawford & Grant Cos. A classic trip of canoe camping on the beautiful Wisconsin River sand bars. Easy paddling, stops for swimming and exploring sand bars and fun for all!
- 34** Group camping at Perrot State Park, Trempealeau Co. Eighteen Sierrans gathered over a summer weekend at Perrot State Park in Wisconsin's Driftless Area at the confluence of the Trempealeau and Mississippi Rivers. The 1,270-acre park features spectacular views of steep limestone bluffs and the river valleys. It also offers opportunities for hiking and paddling.
- 35** Cross Country skiing Timm's Hill, Price Co. Timm's Hill County Park provides access to the highest point in Wisconsin at 1951.5 feet. The 10 mile National Timm's Hill Trail now connects the Ice Age National Scenic Trail to Timm's Hill. Much of the trail runs through private lands. Open throughout the year, Timm's Hill rewards hikers and skiers with great glacial terrain.
- 36** Camping and Canoeing at Wyalusing State Park, Grant Co. Hovering over the joining of the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers, Wyalusing State Park provides the perfect spot for family camping and day activities. A canoe trail through the river sloughs offers a unique way to see the waterfowl, aquatic plants, and diverse animal life of the river bottomlands.
- 37** Nature hike at Tellock's Hill Woods State Natural Area 2013, Waupaca Co. A naturalist guided hike through Tellock's Hill Woods State Natural Area highlights wildflowers and old growth forest. Tellock's Hill Woods is located on a drumlin, a hill with a streamlined ovoid shape formed by advancing glacial ice, and has an unusual sandstone core exposed in a deep ravine. Participants also learned about a proposed industrial sand mine and its impact on the natural area.
- 38** Leopold Reserve and Shack, Sauk Co. One outing recalled the great days when Aldo Leopold and his family were in residence. Members of the outing read from A Sand County Almanac and then in the Leopold family tradition, sang songs accompanied by guitar.
- 39** John Muir Memorial Park and State Natural Area, Marquette Co. This natural area marks the boyhood home of John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club. The park includes a kettle lake, wetland areas, prairies and woodlands. The John Muir Park Segment of the Ice Age Trail traverses the park making it a great destination for both hiking and taking in nature. The Chapter helped establish the park with a donation for land purchases.
- 40** Blue Mounds cross country hike, Iowa Co. Early hikes up Blue Mounds were more like forced marches. Routes that included crossing private lands with permission, climbed over 1000 feet from the Wisconsin River bottoms to the top of Blue Mounds.
- 41** Garlic mustard pull at High Cliff State Park, Calumet Co. Pulling garlic mustard, an invasive species, in High Cliff State Park has become a regular outing for members in the Fox Valley area. The Park sits along the northeastern shore of Lake Winnebago. The

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wooded hiking trails need persistent maintenance to keep this invasive species at bay.

UPCOMING OUTINGS

42 Apostle Islands National Lakeshore (1960s/1970s), Bayfield Co. On two occasions, backpacking trips were led to sections of the Lake Superior shoreline in what is now the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. Participants camped overnight on the beach. At the time of the first trip, the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore was still being planned. Participants used their first-hand experience to comment on draft management plans for the National Lakeshore.

43 Biking at Blue Mounds State Park, Iowa Co. Blue Mounds State Park sits astride the 40-mile Military Ridge State Trail that connects Madison and Dodgeville. In addition to this trail, the park offers over 15 miles of off-road mountain bike trails and the 1-mile Pleasure Valley bike trail.

44 Cross Country skiing Newport State Park, Door Co. Newport State Park has over 26 miles of trail open to cross country skiing. The park is Wisconsin's only formally-designated wilderness park with 2,373 acres and 11 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline.

45 Long Island, Ashland Co. This is not actually an island but a spit of land that extends from Chequamegon Point. Considered part of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, a hike out the spit offers a unique perspective on geologic forces of the Great Lakes and local ecology.

46 Canoe Camp on the Black River, Jackson & Monroe Cos. The Black River provides an ideal setting for sandbar camping. On this family friendly trip, learn how to canoe camp with children and paddle this beautiful quiet water section of the river.

47 Mississippi Backwaters, Buffalo Co. Paddling the backwaters of the Mississippi, participants will enjoy the scenic bluffs, vegetation and bird watching along this major migratory bird route. This area of the river is part of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

48 Pine River canoe camp, Forest & Florence Cos. For 37 years there has been an annual Pine River weekend trip. This is a terrific opportunity to canoe and camp on one of Wisconsin's designated "wild rivers." There will be time to reflect and discuss the challenges and changes facing this river.

49 Three day canoe camp on the Flambeau River and Flambeau River State Forest, Price, Sawyer & Rusk Cos. With two major forks, paddlers have a lot to choose from. The South Fork travels through wild country with hemlock forests and thick pines along with some nice stretches of whitewater to make this one of the most beautiful and exciting paddles in the state. The North Fork flows southward from the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage. Stretches of whitewater punctuate stretches of wide, slow-moving flowage.

es. Rock formations, fantastic scenery and excellent fishing make this Fork a favorite.

50 Glacier Hills Wind Park tour, October 2013, Randolph, WI. Learn about wind as a clean, renewable energy source while touring Wisconsin's largest wind farm. 90 turbines create 162 MW of electricity-the amount needed to power 45,000 homes.

Visit <http://sierrawi50.org/photo-gallery/> to view pictures of some past outings. For a list of all upcoming outings visit: <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Events/outings.asp>



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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

The Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter is calling on dedicated members to serve on our Executive Committee. Members of the 16 person board provide the leadership and vision that direct the powerful, grassroots work of the state chapter. Three seats are up for election this fall.

Candidates should understand and be willing to promote the mission of the Sierra Club, be dedicated to protecting Wisconsin's natural resources, be able to meet on a regular basis and be able to support the chapter with an annual gift in addition to assisting with other fundraising efforts.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

- Chapter general and operational health
- Membership recruitment and retention
- Strategic planning and decision making
- Fiscal and financial oversight, and fundraising support

Executive Committee members will guide the John Muir Chapter and help influence crucial environmental decisions from energy to water protection to the continued battle to prevent destructive mines.

The Sierra Club is the premier grassroots, democratic, environmental group in Wisconsin, thanks to people like you who put in the time and energy to make it flourish. If you are interested in serving, you can get a full position description for Executive Committee members, as well as a short application form, by contacting the chapter office at (608) 256-0565 or by emailing john.muir.chapter@sierraclub.org. All application materials must be completed by August 15th, 2013. The Nominating Committee will consider all applications received by the deadline and place eligible names on the ballot, which will appear in the fourth quarter *Muir View* newsletter, delivered to all chapter members the first week of October.

LESSONS LEARNED

IN THE FIGHT FOR A WISCONSIN WIND FARM DEVELOPMENT

By Carol Johnson, *Beyond Coal to Clean Energy Subcommittee*

When I worked in the wind industry we had a saying to help us get past the many hurdles faced when attempting to put a wind farm development together: Every wind farm project faces six deaths before it ever gets built. No development is easy, but I was not prepared for what happened with the wind project in my own backyard.

When my husband and I purchased land in Forest Township, (St. Croix County), we thought it was an extra benefit that a wind farm was planned. We, as energy users, want to do everything we can do to reduce Wisconsin's dependence on coal, oil, natural gas and other fossil fuels as soon as possible. That includes maximizing energy efficiency and conservation, and it also includes investing in renewable energy sources like wind.

Like many Sierra Club members, we are concerned about climate change caused by burning fossil fuels. Climate change threatens our very way of life in Wisconsin, from our farms to our forests to our fish and other wildlife. According to the National Wildlife Federation, climate change is expected to result in a 19-39% reduction in ducks in the 'Mississippi Flyway' zone. Climate change could also reduce the habitat range for bats, whose migration, hibernation, and reproduction is strongly tied to temperature. Although wind turbines can also lead to bird and bat deaths, mortality can be dramatically reduced with proper wind farm siting, and by turning turbines off during key migration times and during low wind conditions when bats are most active.

In addition to environmental benefits, we knew that, unlike paying for out-of-state fossil fuels, a wind farm could improve the entire economy of an area. According to the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA), Iowa,

which gets over 24.5% of their electricity from wind, employs 6,000-7,000 in the wind industry. In addition to jobs, wind projects also provide revenue in the form of property taxes, lease payments, and indirect development. For instance, according to RENEW WI, in Fond du Lac and Dodge Counties, wind developments provided payments to landowners and local governments that totaled nearly \$2.8 million in 2010.

Imagine our surprise, when we walked into our first town board meeting (after officially moving in October of 2009) to see angry indi-



viduals waving hands full of paper in the faces of the board members and screaming about the proposed Highland Wind farm, all with bright lights and a camera in their faces. The board members looked like deer in the headlights.

Death #1: In hindsight it's clear that the developer may have made a crucial mistake at the early stage of the project. They released information about where they planned to put the turbines and signed contracts with only those landowners. In other projects, the developers will often offer an incentive to all home owners in the area.

Many of the people that were initially excited about the wind farm realized they would not get turbines or directly receive payments from the farm. They didn't realize the township and county as a whole would receive hundreds of thousands a year in direct cash payments, as well as several part-time and full-time jobs in the township of about 400 people.

The statement "if I can't have a turbine, no one will have a turbine" permeated the community. As a result, anti-wind propaganda began circulating. The most common claims involved "Wind Turbine Syndrome", which attempts to link wind farms to a number of health issues, including headaches, depression, insomnia, and even heart problems. I honestly didn't believe they would get traction since there are no published, peer-reviewed studies validating health effects from wind farms. Meanwhile, air pollution caused by fossil fuel energy sources has proven negative effects on human health, including asthma, heart attacks, and strokes.

Unfortunately, recent studies have found that perceived wind turbine health effects might be linked to something called a "nocebo effect." This refers to a phenomenon in which people experience health effects from negative information—the mind makes the body sick. For instance, a study entitled, "Can Expectations Produce Symptoms From Infrasound Associated With Wind Turbines?" published in the March edition of *Health Psychology* involved showing study participants a video of people describing their symptoms from a nearby wind farm. They then exposed half of the participants to infrasound similar to the inaudible, low-frequency sound one hears from a wind farm and the other half to silence. The study found those with anxiety felt the symptoms, regardless of whether they were exposed to sound or not. Another study conducted by University of Sydney researchers, "Spatio-temporal differences in the history of health and noise complaints about Australian wind farms: evidence for the psychogenic, "communicated disease" got similar results.

The scary thing about the nocebo effect is that it is a never-ending cycle. The more people who hear about a problem, the more people believe they have it. As more people 'catch' the disease, more hear about it and it begins to spin out-of-control. This could be why we see many people with 'wind turbine syndrome' in specific areas of Wisconsin while it rarely occurs in Iowa, where there is vastly more installed wind energy. To my dismay, wind turbine syndrome has been compelling in the town of Forest, despite the lack of scientific evidence.

My advice to anyone dealing with the unproven claims of the anti-wind movement is to take them seriously and to hit back with the facts harder and faster.

Death #2: Within a few short months the town board was recalled and replaced with members of the anti-wind movement. The newly elected officials hired law firms and anti-wind “experts” to testify in opposition to the wind farm. The town’s new attorney helped the board rescind the driveway permits granted to the developer and then the development agreement. This situation exemplifies why Sierra Club’s Political committee needs more volunteers to become active in local elections.

Death #3: After analyzing the situation and consulting attorneys, the developer decided to file for a state permit through the Public Service Commission (PSC) rather than go through a lawsuit with the township for breach of contract. We were all very hopeful the project would get back on track, especially since we have the Wind Siting Law in place, which standardizes the rules a wind farm needs to meet—our wind project met all those needs. Then on February 14, 2013, we were heartbroken by the denial of a state permit by the PSC. The denial was supposedly due to some missing information, so we felt sure it was a technicality that could be remedied.

Death #4: On March 1, the wind farm was denied a second time by PSC. To those of us involved, it appeared to be completely a political decision. I was enraged at how fake science was used to give cover for this political decision. I filed a criminal complaint against our town board with the County District Attorney’s office; I wrote a letter to President Obama and Attorney General Holder demanding that these people be held accountable for causing significant damage to my community and our ability to address climate change. I did get a meeting with the DA only to be told that he had no investigators to see if my concerns about the Board were valid.

Death #5: March 14, 2013 was the most recent denial of the PSC permit for the Highland Wind Farm. The dissenting opinion of Commissioner Callisto says that this decision is inconsistent with the law and, in my opinion, adds validity to the assertion that this was a political decision.

There is still a ray of hope, as the PSC announced earlier in May that it would re-open the case and hear more testimony from the wind developer. This could possibly lead them to reconsider their vote. Only time will tell whether this project will face its sixth and final “death” or if through hard work, perseverance and education it will prevail.

Regardless, it’s a shame that anti-wind energy forces are also promoting bills in the State Capitol that ignore science and undermine our ability to reduce Wisconsin’s dependence on coal and other fossil fuels. SB 71 would allow local governments to apply for an exemption to Wisconsin’s uniform wind siting law based on “health effects,” and SB 167 would allow individuals to file a lawsuit against a wind developer if they feel that it caused decreased property values, medical or emotional problems. Luckily, neither of these bills has passed yet. Please contact us at john.muir.chapter@sierraclub.org to volunteer with our clean energy committee to help us stop these bad bills and garner support for policies and projects that will get Wisconsin back on the right track to a clean energy future! ☺

THE END OF THE JOHN MUIR CHAPTER’S ST. CROIX VALLEY INTERSTATE GROUP

The St. Croix Valley Interstate Group (SCVIG) of the Sierra Club, covering parts of St. Croix, Pierce, Polk & Burnett counties from Ellsworth, Wisconsin to Stillwater, Minnesota (with meetings occurring in Hudson), no longer appears to be active. The group engaged members in a protracted legal and grassroots battle to prevent the construction of a multilane \$580 million interstate bridge across the Wild & Scenic St. Croix River. Legislation to allow the bridge was recently approved at the federal and state levels. Interestingly, the first phase of construction – which entails moving thousands of native mussels, including 3 endangered species - was temporarily halted in early May when dead zebra mussels were found on one of the construction barges.

Although the SCVIG provided leadership

for the John Muir Chapter on a number of issues, from protecting the St. Croix River to volunteering to elect conservation champions to educating the public about endangered species, Carol Hardin, the group’s chair now recommends that it be dissolved. She cites several reasons for recommending dissolution, including a lack of volunteer leaders to run for group office, inability to sustain meetings, and a drop in group activities. The Club’s national Office of Volunteer and Activist Services has been informed of the Chapter Executive Committee’s intention to dissolve the group. Assuming there is no immediate protest (and active engagement) by area Sierra Club members, dissolution of the group will proceed following a two thirds vote of the state Executive Committee meeting during their September 12th meeting, which is via teleconference. If this

takes place, any group assets will revert to the state chapter.

Current Club members in the area will still have access to the complete range of club activities, including Sierra Magazine, the Muir View, and Outings. Former SCVIG members are still welcomed and needed to work on issues that are important to them. SCVIG members also have the option of joining another active group by requesting that designation with the Chapter. We are hoping to recruit a new group of volunteer leaders in northwestern Wisconsin soon. A new group in this area could potentially cover a broad range of issues, from protecting the north woods and Lake Superior from destructive logging and mining to supporting clean energy projects like the Highland Wind Farm. Please contact us at john.muir.chapter@sierraclub.org or 608-256-0565 by September 1 if you live in the area and are interested in spearheading efforts to reactivating a group, or if you have questions about the proposed action to dissolve the SCVIG. ☺

John Muir plaque unveiled

To commemorate John Muir's time in Wisconsin, a plaque dedicated to his memory was unveiled on the UW-Madison campus in June. The historic marker, located outside Muir's dorm room in North Hall, was installed as a result of efforts by author Andy Carroll (<http://hereiswhere.org/>), UW Historic and Cultural Resources Manager, Daniel Einstein and the Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter.

JOHN MUIR'S LIFE IN MADISON

By Daniel Einstein, *Historic and Cultural Resources Manager, UW-Madison*

John Muir, a wandering world traveler, is especially renowned for his exploits in California and the Sierra Mountains. However, from the time he arrived in this country at age twelve until he departed for Canada at the age of 25, Muir was a Wisconsin kid.

During much of his youth, he lived with his family on farms near Portage Wisconsin, but in the fall of 1860, Muir set out for the capital city to display one of his inventions at the Wisconsin state fair (later re-purposed as the Civil War training grounds, Camp Randall). Soon after, he gained entry to the state university.

Between February 1861 and June 1863, Muir spent much of his time in or near Madison. As a student at the University of Wisconsin, he attended a total of six academic terms, skipping one term to teach school. In full, he accumulated the equivalent of about two and a half years of higher education before dropping out to pursue a less formal but more rigorous education, in what he later termed the "University of the Wilderness."

Here is a brief account of some of the places where Muir is known to have spent time while living in the Madison area, as well as places that have Muir related objects or commemorations:

- **North Hall.** Muir lived here, the oldest university built structure on campus. His room on the northeast corner of the first floor was a popular destination for students and visitors alike—some likened it to a messy museum. Strewn about the room were Muir's various odd hand-carved inventions and botanical and geological specimens lying about the floor and window sills.
- **Picnic Point.** In a diary entry by a fellow

student, we learned that Muir took a boat and paddled out to Picnic Point in Lake Mendota one afternoon. The students apparently washed their clothes before heading home.

- **Carr House.** Muir met Jeanne Carr on his first day in Madison at the state fairgrounds. They would later form a life-long friendship, with Carr as both mentor and confidante. Muir would visit Jeanne and her husband Ezra (who was also Muir's professor) at their residence at 114 W. Gilman Street, where he could enjoy their extensive personal library of natural history books. The large house has since been subdivided into many smaller apartments for the student rental market.
- **Muir Knoll.** Directly across the road from North Hall within view of Muir's dorm room window, the university dedicated a Lake Mendota overlook to its former student. A red granite boulder marking the knoll was donated by the Muir Walking Club.
- **John Muir Park.** The planned construction of the Social Science Building in the forested area north of Bascom Hall in the late 1950s was fiercely opposed by many in the campus community. Following construction of the building at the western end of the woods, the university agreed to preserve the remainder of the parcel as a natural area for research and study. The park was formally dedicated in 1964.
- **Muir Bust.** In Birge Hall, home to the Wisconsin State Herbarium and the university's botany department, a bronze statue of Muir by C. S. Pietro can be viewed on the mezzanine off the main entry. The statue was unveiled at a ceremony in 1916, accompanied by a dedication address by UW President Van Hise. See: <http://www.library.wisc.edu/etext/wireader/WER0148.html>
- **Mechanical Study Table.** One of Muir's many inventions, designed and hand



carved from scraps of wood, can be viewed in the lobby of the Wisconsin Historical Society Building. The table purportedly could select a book from a shelf and raise it up to the study table and open it to a pre-selected page. After a prescribed number of minutes for study, the device would return the book to its shelf and select the next book.

- **Muir Locust.** In his autobiography Muir writes rhapsodically about his "first" botany lesson near the steps to North Hall, involving the similarities between a black locust tree and a garden pea. Since the reference to the tree was written nearly 50 years after the event, no one was certain which particular black locust near North Hall was the tree where this epiphany occurred.

It is reported that in 1919 during the annual "zig-zag parade" of alumni, a suitable tree was designated as the most likely candidate. When this tree was cut down in 1954, souvenir gavels were fashioned from the wood and sent around the country to Muir admirers and prominent university supporters. One of these gavels can be seen at the Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology library.

- **Log School House.** During the winter of 1861-62, Muir skipped an academic term to teach in a one-room school in Oregon, Wisconsin, about 12 miles from Madison. The original structure where Muir taught was later torn down, and another extant school house structure built on the spot. A local historical marker recalls Muir's brief teaching career.
- **John Muir School.** On Madison's west side is an elementary school named in honor of Muir. In the school library is a white marble bust of Muir, by Edwin Harkness, on long term loan from the university.🍷

FRAC SAND AND INDIAN SACRED SITES

By Linda Three Crows Meadowcroft, Native American cultural preservation advocate

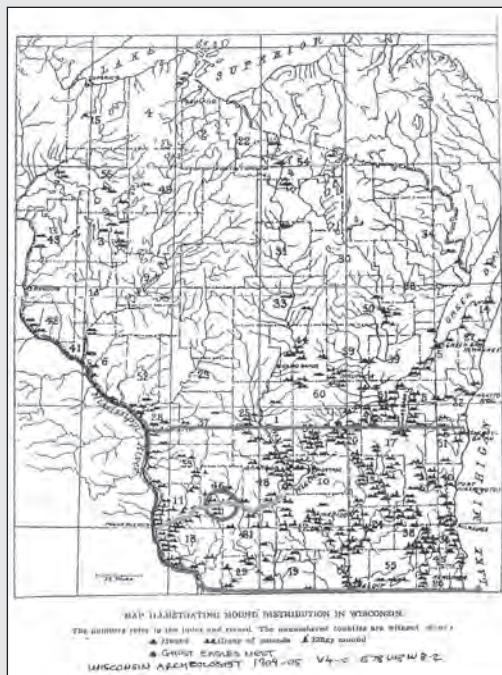
In 1993, artist Jan Beaver, whose maternal grandmother was full-blood Eastern Band Cherokee, arrived in the region, where she proceeded to lead a diverse group of Wisconsinites in an effort to record and preserve the Indian mounds of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway. Jan had been on a Vision Quest that seemed to lead her directly to southern Wisconsin. There, she found the ghostly birds of her Vision Quest dream in the celebrated Eagle Mounds along the Wisconsin River just north of Muscoda.

Accessing historic records, Jan found that there had once been 161 earthen mounds in the area right around “The Eagles,” with hundreds more along the extent of the Lower Wisconsin River. Many mound sites have been plowed flat, but their “roots” still lie underground. The mounds’ disturbed earth, often made of soil brought from distant locations by the ancient mound builders, now scatters ghostly shadows across the fields. Other mound sites still exist above ground, often located on bluffs at the edge of agricultural fields, where they claim sweeping views of the water below. A colleague of Jan Beaver’s, esteemed Ho-Chunk elder Merlin Redcloud, Jr., once said, “There are hundreds of mounds along the (Lower Wisconsin) river. Somebody should just take the time to look at them all.” In fact, Jan Beaver and her colleagues got an extent of land with existing mounds on it sold back to the Ho-Chunk, but the effort to perform a modern archaeological inventory—under the leadership of the Ho-Chunk GIS team -- wasn’t funded. With Jan’s untimely death in 1994, interest in fostering the project faded.

Now the mounds of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway are once again in jeopardy. This time the threat is not from being plowed under or from housing development, but from the frac sand mining craze that’s sweeping the Midwest. While state burial laws have protected the ancient mounds since the mid-1980s, the required buffer zone around the mounds is a mere five feet, and no regulatory guidance exists on how to avoid damage or destruction to mounds when mega-ton machinery is used or blasting occurs. In addition to an inadequate buffer zone, no fencing or signage is required to separate mound sites from mining areas,; and no vegetation, protective netting, or other measures have been called for. If mining truck traffic now threatens historic sites from the 1800s, like Villa Louis in Prairie du Chien, with vibration damage, can we expect 1,200-year old earthen monuments to suffer less from both truck traffic and nearby blasting?

The largest deposits of the best frac sand in the US are in Wisconsin, so this issue is not going away any time soon. Deposits of silica (quartz) lie along Wisconsin’s western border with the Mississippi River and through the west and south central regions of the state along the scenic lower Wisconsin River. Scenic Byway 60, designated just four year ago, hugs the river’s northern shore as it winds through the ancient Driftless Area. Organizations that supported the designation of Hwy 60 as a Scenic Byway have said it “sparkles, by sunny day or starry night, with the wild beauty of Nature left to its own devices for thousands and thousands of years”... and that as “transcendent as the ancient Driftless area landscape is, the history (of the area is also) encoded in its formations. Hundreds of effigy mound earthworks, still alive to the touch, stand today as spiritual gifts and messages from those who peopled this land in the deep past.” The effigy mounds have transformed the entire river corridor into “a work of art,” but this living work of art stands to be transformed into an unsightly string of open pit mines along the length of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway with devastating environmental, cultural, and economic consequences.

The Lower Wisconsin Riverway is part of a land-and-river corridor that stretches across the entire southern tier of Wisconsin. Scholars Squier and Davis described in 1848 a “Great Indian Trail” that ran east-west across this corridor from Milwaukee to Prairie du Chien, along which lay “a chain of earthworks ...found in abundance.” Early surveyor TH Lewis recorded 2,837 effigy, conical, and linear mounds in Wisconsin during his surveys from 1880 to 1895, and some modern estimates calculate that as many as 15,000 mounds once existed in Wisconsin. Sadly, well over 90% have been destroyed. In fact, it’s estimated that the effigy mounds of Wisconsin represent over 90% of all the world’s remaining ancient effigy monuments.



The ancient mounds in the Lower Wisconsin Riverway corridor represent a unique and critical era of ancient mound building in North American archaeological history, seemingly part of a cultural “impulse” that ranged across the continent and through an expanse of time including the Adena (1000BC-200BC), Hopewell (200BC-500AD), and Mississippian Mound Era (850AD-1700AD) which overlapped with the Effigy Mound Culture (700AD-1100AD). The Adena earthworks are tall conical burial repositories; the Hopewell, earthen walls forming large areas of enclosed squares and circles; and the Mississippian, huge earthen pyramids (temple mounds). But the effigy mounds are unique among all the earthen monuments of North America. Wisconsin’s artistically laid-out

shapes of animals, birds, spirits, and headdress-wearing humans are found no place else in the world.

The effigy mound sites tell important stories. One is the archaeological story of the clash and merging of Late Woodland and later Oneota peoples (ancestors of the Ho-Chunk and other Wisconsin nations) with Mississippian traders. Another is a cultural and technological story about the astonishingly accurate alignments of the mounds and related terrain (hills, boulders, pits, petro-forms) with important sky events, found by James P. Scherz, PhD using state-of-the-art surveying methods. Elders, too, share with us a few of the ancient oral stories. Merlin Redcloud, Jr. said that the effigy sites were used as territorial and clan markers, for burials and ceremonial gatherings, and to tell the history of the people. Another elder said, "Everything there is to know about Ho-Chunk history can be found right here in the mound sites."

Perhaps most important, the sites are not merely artifacts or curiosities that can be subject to intellectual examination then cast aside. The sites are the burial places of the relatives of the still-living first peoples of Wisconsin. The sites are the worship places of your neighbors, friends, school chums, local entrepreneurs, professionals, and laborers. Ho-chunk David Greendeer talks about how difficult it is now to "go to a sacred ceremony and see all these sand piles" that have torn up and covered the woods he explored as a child. He says "I cried," and you would, too, on seeing the devastated landscape. If we want to claim religious freedom in this country, how can we justify damaging these ancient churches and destroying their surrounding context?

A required archaeological inventory was performed as part of the mining permit process on three farms proposed to be mined. Twenty-

three—TWENTY-THREE!-- archaeological sites were found. Twelve of the sites were recommended for National Historic Registry. Just imagine how many lie along the rest of the corridor! Will the landowners ever apply for protective historic designation? The existing sites tell important stories about our connection to the past and our cultural heritage, and to destroy them breaks that connection. Without a doubt, the Lower Wisconsin Riverway corridor is a world class heritage site. One landowner in Eagle Township sets an example of what responsible stewardship can do. After selling his farmland with Indian mounds on it to the Ho-Chunk, he bought two nearby hills that were set to be mined for gravel. Important calendar-function mounds run over the crests of both hills which are part of a 1200-acre interlocking site. Throngs of people visit "Frank's Hill," from as far away as Ohio, Florida, Guatemala, Venezuela, and China. All use the restaurants, motels, other businesses, and campgrounds while paddling or fishing in the river. Some fall in love with the area, move here, buy a house, raise their kids, shop in the small towns, start their own businesses. Compared with the destruction and boom-and-bust economy that mining will bring, wouldn't it be preferable to create a heritage corridor that will inspire people for generations and provide a broad-based, multi-level, long-lasting, stable economy?

The Ho-chunk Nation recently issued an eloquent statement in opposition to mining on and near Native American lands (<http://lwr.state.wi.us/docview.asp?docid=24040>). Do the rest of us have the courage to stop this latest assault against the land and the sacred sites of the Indian Nations of Wisconsin? While Jan Beaver is gone, it's not too late to resurrect her vision of a heritage corridor—a vision that will last long after we are gone, and benefit all of the people of Wisconsin for generations to come. ☺



(c) 2012 Linda Meadowcroft

AN INSPIRING CELEBRATION

FOR THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIERRA CLUB – JOHN MUIR CHAPTER

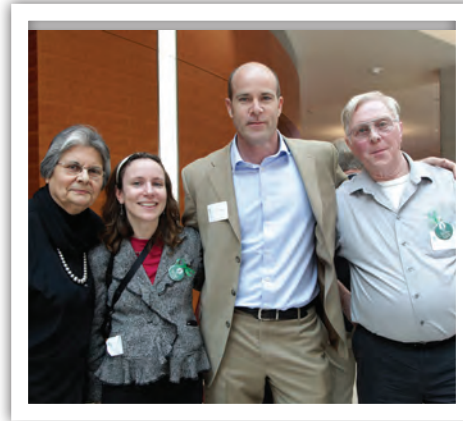
by Shahla Werner, PhD, Chapter Director

When National Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune came to Wisconsin this spring for the Chapter's 50th anniversary celebration, his accommodations were fitting. After arriving late Friday night, Brune was welcomed by John and Cathie Imes, owners of Arbor House, an environmentally-focused bed and breakfast. His room, appropriately, was the John Muir room. Their accommodations ensured that he would be well rested for his visit to the John Muir Chapter as we celebrated 50 Years of Conservation Leadership on a crisp, sunny April day.

Brune's Saturday began with an interview at *Progressive magazine*. From there, he headed to the Isthmus Green Day (an annual expo at the Monona Terrace showcasing green businesses and organizations), where he spoke about how climate change hit home when Hurricane Sandy flooded his parents' basement in New Jersey. He also spoke about how he first became an environmentalist when he and other local citizens came together to stop medical waste and chemical pollution from degrad-

and cutting-edge climate change exhibit.

By late afternoon, 200 longtime members and supporters from throughout the state began arriving at the Wisconsin Institutes for Dis-



covery. Some guests went on a building tour where they learned about the many green features of the LEED-gold certified WID. Others attended a John Muir historical tour guided by Historic and Cultural Resources Manager Daniel Einstein that included a trip to Muir Knoll, Muir's former dormitory room in North Hall, and a bust of Muir in Birge Hall.

The main anniversary celebration included a social hour where Sierra Club members reminisced with one another, enjoyed appetizers, and viewed displays that featured past accomplishments and Chapter leaders. They also perused displays featuring our six local groups and three special activity sections: the River Touring Section, Inner City Outings, and Sierra Student Coalition. Although long time member Pete Slaby could not attend, he lent guests his substantial collection of Sierra Club memorabilia, which included vintage Spencer Black photos and several choice pieces on anti-environmentalist and former Interior Department Secretary James Watt.

John Muir Chapter Chair Liz Wessel kicked off the evening program by recognizing founding members of the Chapter. Mining and Political Chair Dave Blouin continued the program by outlining current Chapter priorities and introducing Former State Representative and National Sierra Club Board Vice President Spencer Black. State Senator Mark Miller presented the chapter with a legislative proclamation that reminded guests of our key victories,

from securing Wild & Scenic River status for the St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers to securing funds for the purchase of and acquiring National Historic Landmark Status for John Muir Memorial Park and State Natural Area in Marquette County. Dane County Executive Joe Parisi then followed up by discussing his longtime connection with the Sierra Club and by announcing his County-level proclamation covering our local accomplishments.

Brune's keynote speech touched on Sierra Club's work to pressure President Obama to take action on climate change and designate new national monuments. He also discussed the future and his plans to visit these special places on vacation with his three children. Most importantly, he left the audience with a message of optimism and hope about our power to make a difference.

Brune said in his speech that environmentalists, and the Sierra Club in particular, "have the greatest opportunity to succeed than ever seen," and encouraged members to maintain their hope and efforts to create a "safe, secure, and sustainable" way to provide energy to future civilizations, despite powerful figures and corporations standing in their way.



"We talk about [the opposition] in a way that takes away our power," Brune said to the crowd. "It almost gives us an excuse not to succeed. But we need to consider we are extremely powerful." (quotes courtesy of madi-soncommons.org)

For more details and photos of the event visit the anniversary website at www.SierraW150.org 🍀



ing the Jersey shoreline.

Brune later joined Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter anniversary sponsors for a special brunch hosted by Carol Brooks and Wayne Bigelow and an interview with WORT-FM Community Radio. Midwest Beyond Coal Organizer Jennifer Feyerherm, who graciously guided Brune throughout the busy day, arranged a special tour of the Aldo Leopold Nature Center in Monona before our evening event. This gave Brune the chance to check out the ALNC's solar panels, electric car charging station, replica of Leopold's shack,



MELANERPES ERYTHROCEPHALUS

The genus name “Melanerpes” means “black creeper.” The species name “erythrocephalus” translates literally as “red-headed.”

Other traditional (and little-known) names for this bird: Flag Bird, Jelly Coat, Half-a-Shirt, Tricolored Woodpecker.

The Red-headed Woodpecker is one of the nine woodpeckers found regularly in Wisconsin, though it's most closely related to the Acorn Woodpecker of the American West. The Red-headed nests across the Eastern United States from central Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, and northeast Texas over to New York, and down into Florida.

The Red-headed is one of the few migratory woodpeckers (the only other in Wisconsin is the Northern Flicker). That's because of its diet. Red-headed love acorns and beechnuts; during winter in Wisconsin it can be tough to get at the nuts buried beneath crusted snow. Birds are migratory north of a line running from Kansas to La Crosse, over to Sheboygan, and Lake Erie, and permanent residents south of it. Due to their habitat preferences, they are rarely found in the boreal forests of Canada.

Want to get a visual image of the favorite habitat of the Red-headed Woodpecker? Imagine the Wisconsin of one hundred years ago, laced liberally with dairy farms. Scattered throughout the cow pastures were huge old oaks. In those days, even when the oaks succumbed to old age, they might still be left standing to provide snags for nesting.

Current population estimates put the Red-headed at 2.5 million total birds in the US, which sounds like a lot, but this brightly-colored bird is getting progressively tougher to find in the state. They've suffered a significant 4.6% decline per year since 1980, and a 50% population

WISCONSIN NATIVE SPECIES RED-HEADED WOODPECKER

reduction since 1966 due to three main reasons; habitat loss (the demise of oak lots), automobiles, and European Starlings.

European Starlings have been tough on many native cavity nesters; they're aggressive and have deadly sharp beaks. A pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers may use the same tree cavity – excavated themselves or inherited from other woodpeckers -- for several years in a row. They may aggressively duke it out with or even forcibly evict songbirds from a choice nesting hole, but they are no match for Starlings.

Red-headed Woodpeckers drill for insects like other woodpeckers, but they also foray, picking insects out of the air like a flycatcher. This feeding behavior, when practiced low to the ground has proven fatal.

In the rural settings of Wisconsin, tractors rarely posed a threat to low-flying woodpeckers, but ever-increasing volume of cars cruising the countryside at highway speeds have been hard on this species.

In the absence of standing oaks, Red-headed have adopted telephone poles as the nesting structure of choice. Like most woodpeckers they like to excavate or inhabit nest holes that face either south or east. The 4-7 white eggs are incubated by both parents.

Adult woodpeckers feed the nestlings bugs, not acorns – higher protein and easier to digest. Red-headed will also eat grapes, berries, cultivated fruit, mice, and the young of songbirds. When acorn crops are high, the birds will sometimes cache them, allowing them to survive snowy conditions.

Birds that migrate south usually evacuate the state by the third week of October – unless they've decided to tough it out here. By May 1st birds are returning to the southern half of Wisconsin, and most have reclaimed nesting territories in the North by May 20th.

All woodpeckers are packed full of unique adaptations. Let's start at the bottom and work up...The feathers in a woodpecker's tail are reinforced with extra-stiff shafts, or rachises, which help prop the bird firmly upright against the tree. Unlike most birds which possess three toes forward and one back, a woodpecker's

feet are designed so that two forward-pointing toes grip the bark and the remaining toes brace back or to the side, helping to moor the bird in place for efficient drilling. The word for this toe structure, shared with parrots, is “zygodactyl” – one of my favorite bird words.

All that pounding could be hard on a bird's head, if not for a few rather inventive physiological advancements. A woodpecker's brain is encased in a thick skull and protected by a cushiony fluid-filled membrane. Strong skull and bill muscles absorb shock. Bristly feathers prevent “sawdust” from entering the nostrils. Perhaps most amazingly of all, the tongue is attached to a flexible cordlike bone which originates in the right nostril, loops over and behind the head, and can extend to spear insects with its sharp tip.

The call of the Red-headed most closely resembles that of a Red-bellied Woodpecker, and can be tricky to distinguish. The Red-bellied utters a rolling “kwwirrr!” and a distinctive “chiv chiv chiv” call, while the Red-headed has a harsher “kweea!”

The Red-headed Woodpeckers coloration is striking and unique – a simple and distinctive theme of black, white and red – although young birds start out with a dull brown hood. In any plumage, the large white patches in the black wings are recognizable at a great distance.

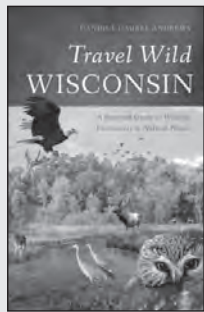
There is still debate amongst scientists whether Woody Woodpecker is a Red-headed Woodpecker, a Pileated Woodpecker, or an Acorn Woodpecker. The mixed field marks employed by the cartoonist have historically caused much angst for those in the birding community who are desperate to positively identify Woody down to the species level. ☺

Steve Betchkal, an award-winning professional journalist, is the author of “*All of This & Robins Too: a Guide to the 50 or So Best Places to Find Birds in Wisconsin*” and “*Make Birds Not War*.” His third and fourth books (to be published by Sandhill Crane Press) are due out in 2013 and 2014. Steve currently writes bird columns for the Eau Claire Leader Telegram, Wisconsin West, and Birdwatching and is producing a 10 part video series on birds for the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology. <http://manymorebirds.webs.com/>

THE GREEN REVIEW

BOOKS RELEVANT TO WISCONSIN SIERRA CLUB MEMBERS

by Amy Lou Jenkins.



TRAVEL WILD WISCONSIN A SEASONAL GUIDE TO WILDLIFE ENCOUNTERS

by Candice Gaukel Andrews, University Wisconsin Press, 2013, 238 pages.

Even if you tend to be an outsider, you just obtained insider status when it comes to wildlife watching in Wisconsin. Candice Gaukel is matching every season to your opportunity for wildlife adventures in the State. We love Wisconsin landscapes, ecosystems, rivers, prairies, lakes and more, but there's an especially heart-pounding joy in seeing wildlife in their natural setting. *Travel Wild Wisconsin* is your specific guide to meet-ups with wild critters. You will know the when, where and how-tos. Candice Gaukel oozes with knowledge and friendly enthusiasm. She's teamed up with an expert in every location, so you have many avenues to your insider status.

No matter how much of a Wisconsin outdoor aficionado you are, there's more wonder in the State to see. Each season showcases unique opportunities. In summer, you can let loons, monarchs and deer encounters fill your days. In autumn, plan to spend the season with elk, cranes, owls and geese. While many folks head indoors in winter, you'll be planning play dates with eagles and wolves. Spring will come for you, no matter the temperature, as you watch prairie chickens boom, sturgeon spawn and grouse flourish on a restored pine barren wilderness area. You'll even see a bison herd - although it's not free ranging. Still, you will no doubt glimpse their power and come closer to understanding their sacred status to the first people of the land of Wisconsin.

Encounters are like dates. Keep having dates and you're likely to fall in love. Gaukel ends *Travel Wild Wisconsin*, with an appendix featuring ways to help Wisconsin Wildlife. Read the book, set up the dates, deepen your love, and make a commitment to wildlife. It's a great love story.

Amy Lou Jenkins is the award-winning author of *Every Natural Fact: Five Seasons of Open-Air Parenting*. She writes from Wauwatosa, WI. Contact her at www.AmyLouJenkins.com if you would like to send a review copy of a book for possible coverage in *The Green Review*.

A copy of "Travel Wild Wisconsin" was provided by University of Wisconsin Press. A copy of "Forests for the People" was provided by Island Press.



FORESTS FOR THE PEOPLE THE STORY OF AMERICA'S EASTERN NATIONAL FORESTS

by Christopher Johnson and David Govatski, Island Press, 2013, 324 pages.

History is full of heroes and villains. Johnson and Govatski have meticulously researched the story of how the eastern national forests suffered when insatiable lumbering and devastating fires overwhelmed the forests east of the 100th meridian. A forest conservation movement led to the passage of the Weeks Act of 1911, which was essential to saving what remained. The story and implications are presented in gripping detail.

Forests for the People provides fascinating historic context and then examines multiple pressures hovering over the security of the eastern National Forests today. Johnson and Govatski don't paint all loggers as villains. Their sophisticated understanding of the forest and their relationship to people is showcased throughout the chapters. They draw upon the lessons and victories of the past to examine the vital issues facing American forests today and suggest paths to better forest management. This isn't a guide for foresters to suggest how they might manage forests. This is a book for voters and land stewards who wish to understand national land and to use their political and activist muscles to prevent these essential biologic treasures from being clear-cut and /or trashed. Our forests need many heroes. Johnson and Govatski provide the background, issues and motivation for the people to join a historical procession of champions- champions who have always been essential to protecting forests.



SUMMER OUTINGS & RIVER TOURS

The Sierra Club, as an organization, serves a dual purpose. John Muir's vision for an environmental group was not just one of education and legislation. He felt very strongly that the best way to empower people to want to protect the wild places of the earth was to get them out to enjoy them. Therefore the Sierra club has always fostered a strong outings program to go along with our conservation ethic. To that end, there are many local, group events available as well as paddling trips through the River Touring Section. Outings and paddling trips are open to all.

SUMMER OUTINGS

Find more outings at <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Events/outings.asp> Note that all outings are subject to change. Please contact trip leaders ahead of time.

July 20, Saturday Ice Age Trail Work Day in Kewaunee County

Fox Valley Sierra Group will assist with a new section of trail. Assist the Lakeshore Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance with brush trimming, shrub removal and more while learning about the trail and surrounding area. For information contact Darrel Ruechel FVSG IATA coordinator, 920-993-0903, r7dairl@yahoo.com (FV)

Aug 1-3, Hike & Bike the Upper Peninsula

Stroll along sandy beaches and pedal atop 300 foot sandstone cliffs while learning the history of scenic Grand Island during this four-day hike & bike in Upper Michigan. We'll camp at Pete's Lake, south of Munising, MI and spend the weekend exploring the Hiawatha National Forest and protected Grand Island. More info available on the Great Waters Group website: www.greatwatersgroup.org or call Ed Anderson at 414-520-2751 with questions or to make reservations. (GWG)

RIVER TOURS

For more information on paddling trips and instructional clinics visit: <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/rts/>

LATE JULY – AUGUST MONTANA WHITEWATER

Class II-IV; Car Camp. Join experienced paddlers on some classic rivers in northwest Montana. The trip will be flexible in order to meet the needs and skills of participants. Paddlers must feel comfortable on rivers like the Wolf Section III. Join us for all or part of this trip. For details contact co-leaders: Phil Johnsrud (class III whitewater leader), 715-445-4777, johnsrud@tds.net or Judd Lefebvre (class IV whitewater leader), 608-412-1631.

AUGUST 3-4 BLACK RIVER

Class I; Canoe Camp (on sandbar). Life's a beach on this section of the Black River! We'll canoe camp on a sand-bar in this beautiful quietwater section of the river down-stream from Black River Falls. Children are welcome on this family-oriented trip. This is an excellent nature/learning experience for children and adults. For details contact: Pat and Bobbie Wilson, 608-788-8831, pbwilson@centurytel.net

AUGUST 10 – 11 CHIPPEWA RIVER

Moving Water; Canoe Camp (on sandbars). The Chippewa River features sandbars, sandy beaches, wooded shorelines, and a wild appearance. You can expect to see eagles, osprey and other wildlife while paddling. We will start on the Red Cedar River (Irvington) to the confluence of the Red Cedar and Chippewa (Camp) then continue on to Durand. Optionally, those wanting to spend another night on the river can continue on to camp below Durand and complete the trip on Monday at the Mississippi. We will cover 10 to 15 miles a day and paddle through both the Dunnville and Tiffany State Wildlife Areas. This is a great chance to learn about canoe camping. For details contact: Carl Wisler, 262-542-9593, carl.wisler@att.net

AUGUST 17-18 UPPER IOWA (IOWA)

Class I; Car Camp. This spring-fed river is one of the most scenic rivers in the Midwest – beautiful limestone cliffs break up this stretch of greenbelt. Learn about the unique geology and ecology of the driftless (unglaciated) region. Dogs are allowed on this trip. For details contact: Doug Robinson, 608-334-8026, dougknu@gmail.com

AUGUST 24-25 FLAMBEAU RIVER

Class II; Canoe Camp. Refresh your soul on the Flambeau by participating on a trip that has become one of our finest traditions. For details contact: Rich Krieg, 920-660-3557, eddyout@gmail.com or Dale Dean, 608-302-5744, daleink55@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER 7-8 MISSISSIPPI BACKWATERS

Moving Water; Car Camp. This trip is great for recreational 12' and longer, sea kayaks and tandem canoes. We'll paddle the backwaters of the Mississippi near Winona, MN and Fountain City, WI. Paddlers should be comfortable with big water and crossing the main channel. Enjoy the scenic bluffs, while learning about vegetation and bird species along this major migratory bird route. For details contact: Sue O'Brien, 507-452-3164, sueob1@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER 14-15 WISCONSIN WHITEWATER

Class II-III; Car Camp. Another beautiful fall weekend (if we're lucky). Depending on water levels, paddlers' interest, and weather, we could paddle the Pike, Red, or Wolf. This is a chance to improve paddling skills learned earlier this year in the clinics or on other rivers, and to see bald eagles and kingfishers along the way. Wet/drysuit and helmet required. For details contact: Bruce Nelson, 608-244-6397, b1bnelson@att.net or Kasy Culbertson, 608-222-0746, kasy99@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER 14-15 ROOT RIVER (MINNESOTA)

Class I; Car Camp. Enjoy a fall weekend paddling the Root River while learning about the unique geology and ecology of the driftless (unglaciated) region near Lanesboro. Dolo-mite cliffs overlook the valley which has many spring fed tributaries and abundant wildlife. For details contact: Sue O'Brien, 507-452-3164, sueob1@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER 19-22 NAMEKAGON RIVER FOR WOMEN

Moving Water; Canoe Camping. Join five other women for a scenic and educational 30 mile canoe paddle on the Namekagon River, part of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. The Namekagon is a quiet and narrow river that meanders through varied landscape and abundant wildlife in Wisconsin's northwoods. Cost: \$125, including canoes, meals, and first night's lodging. \$25 registration deposit required. For details contact: Nancy McDermott, 608-238-1421, njmc-derm@gmail.com

Continued on Page 16

FROM THE CHAIR *Continued from page 3*

In a similar vein, National Sierra Club is preparing to launch Our Wild America. This renewed commitment to the integration of conservation work and outings will protect large landscapes from destructive resource development and conserve our collective land, water and wildlife assets. To do this, the Club will deliberately engage a broad diversity of citizenry and activists at all levels of the club and provide a variety of high quality recreational experiences for all Americans.

The focus on forest and water resources, and protecting natural monuments does not ignore the power of the personal backyard experience. The framework which has been presented to the Sierra Club Board includes the need to recognize and enhance the role of nearby nature. This is as much a part of Our Wild America as the iconic scenery that comes to mind.

A tall order, yet we have been there before. We have in fact modeled this throughout the development of the Sierra Club at different times in our history. Here in Wisconsin, our work to set aside wild and scenic rivers, the glacial terrain corridor and the creation of the Stewardship Fund has served to protect biodiversity and recreational values and maintain access to the outdoor experience.

We cannot be content just to explore and enjoy; we need to protect, defend and expand our opportunities to experience Wild Wisconsin. We need to ensure that Wisconsin's and America's conservation heritage lives on in all of us. This is our Wild Wisconsin and-if we each do our part to protect it-our children and grandchildren's. 🍃

CONGRATULATIONS to the John Muir Chapter on 50 years of fighting and winning for our outdoors

Spencer Black

*Board of Directors, National Sierra Club
Former State Rep. and Chair of the Assembly Natural
Resources Committee
Former John Muir Chapter Chair*



Paid for by Citizens for Spencer Black, Pam Fornell, Treasurer

OUTINGS & TOURS *Continued from page 15*

SEPTEMBER 21 - 22 OCONTO RIVER

Quietwater; Car Camp. We'll paddle quietwater stretches from Suring to Hintz on Saturday and from Hintz to Pulcifer on Sunday. Learn how Wisconsin's Managed Forest Law impacts the state's forests. For details, contact: Gregg Riemer, 608-257-5239, duNord@sbcglobal.net

SEPTEMBER 21-22 KICKAPOO AND WI RIVER

Moving Water; Canoe Camp. We'll put in at Plumb Creek Landing on the Kickapoo, camp on a sand bar on the Wisconsin, and take out at the Highway 18 bridge. The camping is primitive—no facilities. This quiet water trip is a great way to study the early fall bird migration in the Plumb Creek unit of the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway. For details contact: Carl Wisler, 262-542-9593, carl.wisler@att.net

SEPTEMBER 29 BARABOO RIVER

Class 1; Day trip. This stretch of river is shallow and rocky with a nice current. Good for plastic and Royalex canoes or kayaks. Shallow gravel sections would be hard on nice kevlar or fiberglass boats. Helmets required for kayakers and solo canoes. Learn about and experience

first-hand the results of the Baraboo River restoration project that allowed boaters and wildlife to return to this now free-flowing river. For details, contact: Carl Zimm, 608-246-0485, beampowered-tetrode@yahoo.com

OCTOBER 12 - 13 MECAN RIVER AND NEENAH CREEK

Moving Water; Car Camp. Although there are no rapids, both of these small central Wisconsin streams maintain a steady current and at times require precise maneuvering around tight bends. Enjoy fall colors and opportunities for waterfowl viewing and conservation education. For details, contact: Gregg Riemer, 608-257-5239, duNord@sbcglobal.net

OCTOBER 26-27 WOLF RIVER

Class II-III; Car Camp. Annual Halloween Trip. Designated a National Wild and Scenic River the Wolf offers excellent paddling as well as ample educational opportunities. We'll paddle Section III on Saturday and Section II on Sunday. Wet/drysuit and helmet required. Potluck dinner on Saturday night. For details contact: Phil Johnsrud, 715-445-4777, johnsrud@tds.net

OUTING INFORMATION

Host group is indicated in brackets

- [CV] Chippewa Valley Group
- [CR] Coulee Region Group
- [4L] Four Lakes Group
- [FV] Fox Valley Group
- [GW] Great Waters Group
- [SEG] Southeast Gateway Group
- [SCVI] St. Croix Valley Interstate Group
- [JM] John Muir Chapter

Liability Waiver & Carpooling

In order to participate in a Sierra Club outing, you will need to sign a liability waiver. In the interests of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel. CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR 2013 QUETICO/BOUNDARY WATERS PADDLING ADVENTURES

Hearing the loon's cry while watching the sunset from a remote lakeshore invites the wilderness into your heart and soul. Just as the salmon and swallows return, people need to connect with the wild. Since 2004, when Sierras were first invited by Bill Moore to join on a wilderness paddle in Ontario's incomparable Quetico Provincial Park, dozens have shared the joy of Quetico wilderness travel by joining one of the annual John Muir Chapter outings into the area. This year is no exception as trips are being announced for the following dates.



Travelers enjoy plenty of opportunities for swimming, fishing, stargazing, photography, day-hiking, berry picking, cooking or just meditation. In the tradition of the first trip, these are designed to minimize costs and include canoes, group equipment, meals, necessary lodging, and park usage fees. Associated costs for individual permits and licenses (as well as passports) are not included. Costs are generally half of what outfitters charge. Travel to the base/starting point is not considered part of the trip, though carpooling is encouraged.

All trip leaders have completed Sierra Club outings leadership training emphasizing group safety, as well as Wilderness First Aid courses. While experience is not a requirement, good physical fitness and a good attitude are essential. Interested Sierra Club members should contact trip leaders directly about registering. All trips are limited to 9 participants. A required \$100 deposit begins the process. Travel arrangements to/from the starting point, passports, personal permits and licenses are the participant's responsibility. Call trip leaders for more information.

JULY 20 - 28: 9 DAYS, 8 NIGHTS

Leaders: Mike McQuilkin, 253-219-9208,
sumcqu@comcast.net

Scott McQuilkin, 253-988-4394,
lo86blazer@aol.com

D. Point: Camp Quetico, Atikokan, Ontario

Cost: \$600

Participants will traverse the park from North to South emphasizing Quetico's world-class fishing for bass, walleye, and northern pike, and the spectacular scenery of the area's lakes.

AUGUST 2-11: 9 DAYS, 8 NIGHTS

Leader: Nancy McDermott 608-238-1421,
njmcderm@gmail.com

D. Point: Moose Lake - Ely, MN

Cost: \$600

Participants will cover a shorter distance and incorporates double portaging to keep pack weights down. Trip features include multi-day base camps with ample fishing opportunities and delicious home-cooked, lightweight meals including camp-baked treats.

AUGUST 9-18: 9 DAYS, 8 NIGHTS

Leader: Vicki Christianson 715-239-6594
ctn44958@centurytel.net / Bill Moore
262-785-9022 environ1@sbcglobal.net

D. Point: Moose Lake - Ely, Minnesota

Cost: \$600

Participants will enjoy pictographs, waterfalls, two layover camps, voyageur history, laser-lit stargazing, and excellent fishing opportunities.

AUG 24 - SEPT 2: 9 DAYS, 8 NIGHTS

Leader: Bill Mathias 920-339-0437
wjmathias@gmail.com

D. Point: Moose Lake - Ely, MN area.

Cost: \$600

Choose from a variety of routes that will include Bill's famous fire-baked bannock bread but vary in the lakes, streams, wildlife, waterfalls, Ojibway pictographs, fishing opportunities and lengths. All have unparalleled scenery and two restful layover days at gorgeous wilderness campsites.

SEPTEMBER 19-22

Leader: Nancy McDermott 608-238-1421,
njmcderm@gmail.com

D. Point: Trego, WI

Cost: \$125

Enjoy the autumn colors on a leisurely float on a women-only trip covering 35 miles of the National Wild and Scenic Namekagon River in Northern WI. Limited to 6 participants.

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED: Each trip includes the name and contact information of the trip leaders. You must call the leaders prior to the trip to register and to get the logistics of the trip (when and where it departs.) Trip leaders can provide information about the trip and help you assess your abilities to participate. Leaders reserve the right to limit participation based on the number of people registered, participant skill levels, trip difficulty, and other reasons.

GEAR: You are responsible for providing all of your gear—boat, paddles, life jacket, bail bucket, and so on. You'll also need to provide weather-appropriate clothing. This means a wet or dry suit for early and late season runs and for whitewater as well as gear to minimize sun exposure, such as a hat and sunglasses.

All participants MUST wear a properly fitted and securely fastened life jacket on all the trips and in the clinics. You are responsible for providing all of your camping equipment, tents, sleeping bag, food, etc.

CLASSES OF WATER: We want your RTS experience to be fun. We also want it to be safe. The International Scale of River Rating Difficulty is a guide for assessing the difficulty of a stretch of water and will help you decide if a trip is appropriate for you and your skill level. Many of these trips are suitable for paddlers with solid flatwater canoe skills. Trip leaders are always happy to discuss the nature of the river with you.

LIABILITY WAIVER & REQUIREMENTS: All participants are required to sign a liability waiver prior to the trip and abide by decisions made by the trip leaders. If you would like to read the liability waiver form before you sign up for a trip or clinic, please see: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/CST2087766-40>. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of CA.

TRANSPORTATION: You are responsible for providing your own transportation to and from the river. We can identify people who have space in their car and people who need rides, but we do not make transportation arrangements.

OTHER: We do not allow non-paddlers, pets, glass containers, or alcoholic beverages on our trips while we are on the water.

Notice: CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS? Visit wisconsin.sierraclub.org/rts/ or contact: Meg Nelson, RTS Chair, at: prairiesmoke2@gmail.com, 608-242-8633.

2013 AUTUMN ASSEMBLY

Continued from Page 1

On Saturday, we are honored to welcome Dr. Thomas Heberlein as our keynote speaker. Tom is the former chair of the Department of Community and Environmental Sociology at UW-Madison and is currently a professor in the Department of Wildlife, Fish and Environmental Studies in Umeå, Sweden.

He'll discuss how we can apply ideas from his recent book, *Navigating Environmental Attitudes*; to problems we face in Wisconsin, from mining to wolf restoration to climate change. His work uses river reading as a metaphor to urge environmentalists to go beyond education and awareness-building; turning instead to community norms, values, and attitudes for lasting change.

A Sierra Club member since 1992, he'll provide us with insights on our past accomplishments and suggestions for continued progress in the future.

In addition to our distinguished keynote speaker, we'll hear from a range of other experts on topical conservation issues. Mining Chair Dave Blouin and Wisconsin Resources Protection Council Executive Secretary Al Gedicks will provide an update on metallic mining, while the Fox Valley Group's Kelly Ramstack will join Pat Popple to offer tips

on community organizing around proposed sand mines.




The Assembly will also feature:

- A panel discussion on the need for increased oversight, inspection, and enforcement of factory farms to protect water resources
- A hands-on water sampling demonstration in Green Lake
- Updates on our work to advance clean, renewable energy and transit in Wisconsin.

On Saturday evening, we'll recognize conservation leaders from the Chapter and community during our Awards Ceremony. After dinner, attendees will enjoy a musical performance from Ken Lonquist (who will also offer a conservation songwriting workshop earlier on Saturday) and get a chance to bid on eco-friendly items in a silent auction to benefit the Chapter's conservation work. This year, our silent auction will also feature some rare, entertaining Sierra Club memorabilia to honor our 50th Anniversary!

Field trip options include a Friday tour of the Glacier Hills Wind Park in Randolph and guided hike of Dawson Prairie and a Sunday hike at John Muir Park. Don't miss the fun! The 900 acre, Green Lake Conference Center offers abundant recreational opportunities with restored prairie, wooded trails and plenty of shoreline to explore. Available accommodations include camping, rustic cabins, and dorm rooms with bunks and shared bathrooms.

For a complete schedule or to register online, visit <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Events/aa.asp>. Early bird discounts are available. See the registration form on page 19 for rates and lodging options. Contact the Chapter office at 608-256-0565 for more information. 

AUTUMN ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE

Friday, October 11

2:00 PM Optional Field Trip, Glacier Hills Wind Park, Randolph, WI

4:00 PM Optional Field Trip, Hiking Dawson Prairie (behind Carroll Youth Center)

5:00–8:00 PM Registration & Snacks, Carroll Youth Center, Silent auction items. Dinner on your own.

Saturday, October 12

7:30–8:30 AM Breakfast

8:45–9:45 AM Beyond the Bad River Watershed Destruction Act: Protecting Wisconsin from Destructive Metallic Mining – Al Gedicks, Executive Secretary, Wisconsin Resources Protection Council; and Dave Blouin, Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter Mining Chair

9:50–10:50 AM Tips for Organizing at the Local Level to Reduce Frac Sand Mining Impacts – Pat Popple, leader of Concerned Chippewa Citizens;

and Kelly Ramstack, Fox Valley Group Activist

10:50–11:00 AM Break/bid on silent auction items

11:00–11:50 AM Keynote Speech - Tom Heberlein, author, *Navigating Environmental Attitudes*

Noon–1:00 PM Lunch

1:10–2:00 PM Workshops, choose from:

A) Writing Effective Letters to the Editor

B) Songwriting Workshop: Applying Verse to Sierra Club's Campaigns, Ken Lonquist

C) Water Sentinels Lake Sampling Demonstration, Nancy Carlson

2:10–3:00 PM Factory Farms: Pushing for Increased Oversight to Protect Water Resources

3:05–3:50 PM Expanding Clean Energy in Wisconsin, Elizabeth Ward

4:00–4:45 PM Advocating for Transit, Biking & Walking in Your Community, Beyond Oil Committee

5:00–6:00 PM Dinner

6:15–7:45 PM Awards, Dessert, Silent Auction, 50th Anniversary Slides, and Socializing

8:00–10:00 PM Musical Entertainment, Ken Lonquist

10:00–11:00 PM Campfire or stargazing

Sunday, October 13

7:30–8:30 AM Breakfast

9:00–9:45 AM Local Group Updates

9:50–10:30 AM Madison's Inner City Outings, Connecting Disadvantaged Youth to the Outdoors

10:30–11:30 AM Reinvigorating Outings: Improving Participation & Conservation Connections, Group discussion led by Liz Wessel & Eric Uram

11:30–11:45 AM Wrap up & pick up optional Box Lunches

12:20 PM–3:00 PM Optional Field Trip, Hiking John Muir County Park, Montello, WI

2013 Autumn Assembly Registration

Name(s): _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Cell #: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ email: _____

Instructions

Select your registration, field trip and lodging choices. Add the totals for each section together. Register by September 15 for early bird discounts.

Online registration also available at:

<http://action.sierraclub.org/site/Calendar?id=168841&view=Detail>

Questions:

608-256-0565 or john.muir.chapter@sierraclub.org

Assembly Registration

New for 2013-The registration fee now includes meals, beverages and snacks as well as program fees. Children's rates available upon request.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY REGISTRATION:

Early Bird-if paid by September 15

_____ # Adults (12 & up) x \$75 _____

Regular Rate-if paid after Sept. 15

_____ # Adults (12 & up) x \$95 _____

SATURDAY ONLY REGISTRATION:

Early Bird-if paid by September 15

_____ # Adults (12 & up) x \$65 _____

Regular Rate-if paid after Sept. 15

_____ # Adults (12 & up) x \$75 _____

Registration Total _____

Field Trips

Optional field trips are available at no extra charge, however, advance registration is required.

Glacier Hills Wind Park Tour

Fri. 2pm, Randolph, WI # participating _____

Explore Dawson Prairie

Fri. 4pm, Green Lake Conf. Cen. # participating _____

Hike at John Muir Co. Park

Sun. 1pm, Montello, WI # participating _____

Lodging

Options include dormitory rooms, rustic cabins or tenting. Every two dorm rooms share a bath. Bedding and towels are supplied in dorms and cabins. Reservations are first come-first served.

3 Person Dorm Room - Robins North Hall, two bunks & single bed per room. Rooms will be designated as male/female. Roommate preference can be indicated below, but can not be guaranteed.

_____ # Adults Fri. night x \$25 _____

_____ # Adults Sat. night x \$25 _____

Private Dorm Room-reserve an entire room for you and a roommate or just yourself (indicate roommate below)

_____ # rooms Fri. night x \$75 _____

_____ # rooms Sat. night x \$75 _____

Rustic Cabins-Four cabins available, each sleeps 4-6 with bunk beds, kitchenette & bath (indicate roommate(s) below)

_____ # Cabins Fri. & Sat. night x \$180 _____

Tenting-10 non-electric sites with bathhouse nearby

_____ # sites Fri night x \$28 _____

_____ # sites Sat night x \$28 _____

Lodging Total _____

Roommate preferences:

Payment

Total due (Registration + Lodging) _____

Mail registration and payment to: Sierra Club, 222 S. Hamilton St-Suite 11, Madison, WI 53703

CHECK (made payable to Sierra Club-
John Muir Chapter)

CREDIT CARD

Cardholder name: _____

Card Number: _____

Exp. Date: _____ CVV _____

JOIN US FOR THE JOHN MUIR CHAPTER'S

2013 Autumn Assembly

October 11-13, 2013 @ Green Lake Conference Center | **Early-bird registration ends September 15!**

JOHN MUIR CHAPTER CALENDAR

2013 EXCOM MEETINGS

Sept 12 Executive Committee Meeting
Conference Call

2013 EVENTS

July 27 Kickapoo Country Fair (10am-10pm)
The midwest's largest organic food and sustainability fair.
LaFarge, WI <http://www.organicvalley.coop/kickapoo>

Sept 7 Fighting Bob Fest, Alliant Energy Center, Madison
www.fightingbob.com

Oct 11-13 Autumn Assembly with keynote Dr. Thomas Heberlein
Green Lake Conference Center, Green Lake, WI
<http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Events/aa.asp>

Check the John Muir Chapter website, or e-mail or call the Chapter office for updated information.

Website: <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org>

Phone: (608) 256-0565

E-mail: john.muir.chapter@sierraclub.org



CONTACT INFORMATION FOR JOHN MUIR CHAPTER GROUPS

Chippewa Valley <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/chippewa/>

Coulee Region <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/coulee/>

Four Lakes <http://www.4lakes.org>

Fox Valley <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/foxvalley/>

Great Waters <http://www.sc-gwg.org/>

SE Gateway <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/segg/>

St. Croix Valley Interstate

<http://www.northstar.sierraclub.org/about/groups/st-croix/>

Even if there is not a Sierra Club group located near your home, you can still take meaningful action.

Contact the John Muir Chapter office to find out how.

222 S. Hamilton St., Suite 11

Madison, WI 53703-3201

